



**Alan J. Nicholas
Ward County Attorney**

*201 East Fourth Street
Monahans, Texas 79756*

Telephone: 432) 943-4211

Facsimile: 432) 943-7404

January 28, 2019

Marissa Jones
MuckRock News
411A Highland Ave
Somerville, MA 02144-2516

Re: Public Information Request (PIR) Re: Christopher Sanders

Ms. Jones,

The information you requested is part of an open investigation through law enforcement. As the information officer in Ward County, the Monahans Chief of Police, Billy Riley has asked me to review the request and determine whether the information may be released.

The Open Records Act promotes the release of information when it is appropriate, and indeed, suggests that the release of information is a default position to be adopted by public offices and entities such as police departments, sheriff's offices, etc. However, there are also many situations in which the release of said information may not be allowed.

At this time, the information you've requested regarding Christopher Sanders is part of an open and active investigation and as such I cannot allow it to be released to you. Releasing said information may have the effect of negatively impacting the ongoing investigation.

Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. J. Nicholas", written over a horizontal line.

Alan J. Nicholas
Ward County Attorney